

Specified Risk Materials (SRMs) Definition for the European Union

The following is the most current information that we have regarding the definition of SRMs for the European Union. NOTE: Specific countries, such as France, may have different requirements.

Specified Risk Materials include:

- Skull, brain, eyes, tonsils, vertebral column excluding the vertebrae of the tail and the transverse processes of the lumbar vertebrae, but including dorsal root ganglia and spinal cord of bovine animals over 12 months, and the intestines from the duodenum to the rectum of bovine animals of all ages;
- Skull, brain, eyes, tonsils, and spinal cord of sheep or goats that were over 12 months or which have a permanent incisor erupted through the gum, and the spleen of sheep and goats of all ages;
- Mechanically recovered meat produced after 03/31/01 from the bones of cows, sheep, or goats;
- Animals that were slaughtered by means of gas injection into the cranial cavity or killed by the same method or slaughtered by laceration after stunning of central nervous system by means of elongated rod-shaped instrument introduced into the cranial cavity.**

** After consulting with FSIS in D.C. Veterinary Services has determined that the captive bolt is used in most plants. There are 2 types; one using a cartridge similar to a bullet to drive the bolt into the brain and the other using air (pneumatic captive bolt) to drive the bolt into the brain (air is not injected into the cranial cavity). Both of these methods are acceptable and do not fall under the banned methods described above.